AIR POUCH — UNCLASSIFIED
SECURITY

103

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714.00(W)/4-353

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA — DESP. NO. 874

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. — DATE April 3, 1953

REF : F790004-1300 — APR 4 1953

5 For Dept. Use Only mi	ACTION OLI	DEPT. INFO	REP ARA E I IBS IFI IPS RE
	REC'D APR 6	OTHER INFO	AG COMM FRB NSRB TAR TR XMB ARMY NAVY AIR CIA OSD

SUBJECT: WEEKA NO. 14 - ECONOMIC SECTION

SECTION II

Business activity in March remained at a low level. Farm machinery and equipment sales were about 40 percent under March 1952 and the large-scale drop in agricultural buying, which is basic to the economy, was emphasized by a 50 percent decline in sales of fertilizers, normally ordered during the first quarter for Spring planting. Department store and home appliance volume improved because of Easter sales, and bank clearings and deposits increased reportedly due to large movements of coffee. However, a decrease in the receipt of foreign items by banks appeared to reflect the tendency of importers to delay new orders in view of generally slow conditions.

Economic Development

The Cabinet this week approved a contract with the Morrison-Knudsen engineering firm of Boise, Idaho, to construct the projected port and dock facilities at Santo Tomás (Weeka No. 11). The press stated that work would begin as soon as Congress approved the contract and would be completed in two years.

I [illegible] recalled that the new port is designed to free Guatemala from dependence on the facilities at nearby Puerto Barrios, owned and operated by the International Railways of Central America, and would be connected with Guatemala City by the Atlantic Highway when that road is completed.

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 11/30/77 PER Chapman OFFICE ARA FADRC FOI CASE NO. 140332

Central Files 714.00(W)/4-353

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE RECEIVED APR 1953 MESSAGE CENTER

Action Assigned to

Action Taken

William L. Krieg
Chargé d'Affaires

Date of Action 4-10-53

Action Officer [illegible] CLASSIFIED

Name of Officer

Direction to DC/R

EHMiller:dm
REPORTER
(4/15/53)

LWC

FILED MAY 11 1953

ACTION COPY — DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.